(e) A representation has been received by Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) from Welfare Association, Sarai Basti, Old Rohtak Road, Delhi-35 against a plastic industry.

(f) The DPPC is taking necessary action against the Unit as per provisions of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act and Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act.

Eco-Friendly Plastic Bag

2533. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any environmentally degradable (ED) plastic, which does not leave harmful toxic residue or matter, choke the drains or kill the animals, as reported in the "Hindustan Times" dated 13th June 2002;

(b) if so, by when this enviroment friendly plastic bag would be brought in the market for public use; and

(c) what would be cost-wise analysis of the conventional plastic bag and the ED plastic bag once marketed?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Environmentally Degradable plastics can be decomposed to form water and carbon dioxide by the action of microorganisms commonly existing in the natural environment.

(b) and (c) As per the Ministry of Science and Technology sponsored project report on Technology status and prospects of bio-degradable plastics in India, there are two known indigenous biodegradable plastic manufacturing units in the country.

Impact of Utkal Alumina Project on wildlife

2534. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the area proposed for setting up of Utkal Alumina Project in Kasipur Block of Rajagoda District in Orissa has the wildlife of the nature of bears and other mammals;

(b) whether any expert opinion from leading wildlife conservation organisation has been obtained on the likely impact of this project on the wildlife, both flora and fauna;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) According to the Project Report and the Site Inspection Report, only following mammals are sited near the project site:

1. Porcupines
2. Mongoose
3. Hare
4. Fruitbats
5. Rats

(b) Since these mammals are not amongst the rare and endangered species and the project site does not form a part of any National Park or a Sanctuary, the expert opinion from leading wildlife conservation organisation was not contemplated in this case.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Distribution of Forest Land

2535. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government distributed the forests land on lease to anybody else for cardamom plantation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the cardamom cultivation and the lease of land satisfies the relevant provisions of Forest Protection Act, stating whether any violation of the law has been noticed; if so, the action taken by Government to protect the reserve forest land?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Government of Kerala had been assigning the lands in Cardamom Hill Reserve & Periyar Reserve in Idduki District to private persons including tribals as per the provisions of Cardamom Rules. It was revealed recently that the land that was being assigned is legally notified